

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

7 October 2002

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: 25-Oct-2011

Dr. Michael Kurtz  
Assistant Archivist for Records Services,  
Washington, D.C. - Room 3400  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road  
College Park, MD 20740-6001

Dear Dr. Kurtz:

Mike: Pursuant to a 1995 Congressionally Directed Action (CDA), the Central Intelligence Agency Declassification Center (CDC) performed a declassification review of material created by the STAR GATE program. The enclosure provides information on STAR GATE, the CDA, and the information to be released.

As a result of this review, we declassified or sanitized 9,861 documents (73,536 pages). On or about 1 November 2002, we will place images of these documents on the CIA Records Search Tool (CREST) at National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) II. These records constitute the first tranche of this collection. We do not plan on publicizing this release.

At a later date, we will place additional records on CREST. We plan to finish the release of records from this collection by the summer of 2003. In addition to paper records, the collection consists of video and audio tapes and 35mm slides. Mr. David Langbart of your staff has recently completed a review of the original records. Once he completes his appraisal, he will prepare an SF-115 identifying the records that warrant permanent preservation in order for them to be accessioned to NARA.

We believe that this release will generate significant media attention and researcher interest. In the past STAR GATE has been the subject of at least three television network programs.

If you have any questions, please call me at (703) 613-1390 or my point of contact, Harry Cooper, at (703) 613-1776.

Sincerely,

  
Richard J. Warshaw

Chief, CIA Declassification Center

Enclosure

Enclosure

STAR GATE Background Information

STAR GATE was a 25-year Intelligence Community program focusing on the use of paranormal phenomena (i.e., the use of psychics and remote viewing). STAR GATE supplemented US intelligence collection efforts. Program records span the period from 1972-1996 and consist of approximately 45 boxes of material relating to at least five past programs under such names as SCANATE, SUN STREAK, CENTER LANE, GRILL FLAME, and STAR GATE. They include documentation of remote viewing sessions, training, internal memoranda, assessments, and program reviews. The records are principally from DIA, Army/INSCOM (1976-1985), and CIA (1972-1976). A small number of records also cover the program termination under CIA in 1995 and early 1996.

On 1 July 1995, the STAR GATE program was officially transferred from DIA to CIA, completing the first step of a Congressionally Directed Action (CDA). The CDA stated in part:

*"In the post-cold war era, the nature and activities of the STAR GATE Program are more relevant to the mission of the CIA (CIAP) than the military intelligence services. The transfer of STAR GATE resources and management to the CIAP should be completed by July 1, 1995."*

Further, the Senate Appropriations Committee report stated:

*"The Committee also believes that the time has come for the re-evaluation of the classification of the existence of this effort as well as the results that have been obtained over time ... [and that] ... [t]he DCI's declassification committee should review the history and nature of this program to determine what parts of it may be declassified and be converted into an open world activity."*

Pursuant to the CDA, the DCI directed a review of material created by the program for its declassification and release to the public. The CIA Declassification Center (DC) reviewed STAR GATE holdings and is now preparing to release STAR GATE records to the public by placing electronic images of declassified and sanitized documents on a computer at the National Archives and Records Administration at College Park, MD.

A broad description of the material the CIA plans to release or protect from release is summarized below:

- **Remote viewing sessions:** For all remote viewing sessions, the tasking summary and the product of the session, or what the viewer "saw," were released. These often included descriptions of individuals and/or locations, as well as drawings or sketches. Sensitive operational facts, such as classified photos, target names, and names of agents or law enforcement personnel were redacted. Assessments of the accuracy of the product, as compared to classified intelligence, were also redacted.
- **Paranormal Research:** Some documents describe the potential use of paranormal activity in the conduct of intelligence activities. Many are CIA memos assessing the credibility of various practitioners of remote viewing. Also included is a progress report prepared by a contract consulting firm assessing the status of anomalous mental phenomena. These documents were either released in their entirety or in a sanitized version.
- **Assessments of Foreign Parapsychology:** These documents summarize psychoenergetics research in the USSR and China. Many of the early reports were based on open-source material. Classified reports, in most cases, were withheld, especially when created after 1990.

The following chart gives statistics concerning the STAR GATE paper records as of 30 September 2002.

Tranche 1 RIF <sup>1</sup>	4,672 RIF documents	29,772 pages
Tranche 1 RIP <sup>2</sup>	5,189 RIP documents	43,764 pages
<b>Total Tranche 1 Release</b>	<b>9,861 released documents</b>	<b>73,536 pages</b>
Tranche 1 DIF <sup>3</sup>	3,170 documents	17,099 pages
<b>Total Tranche 1</b>	<b>13,031 documents</b>	<b>91,235 pages</b>
Remaining to be Reviewed	2,877 documents	20,800 pages
<b>Total SG Collection</b>	<b>15,908 documents</b>	<b>112,035 pages</b>

<sup>1</sup> RIF = Released in Full

<sup>2</sup> RIP = Released in Part

<sup>3</sup> DIF = Denied in Full